

## AGENDA

### Commission on Child Protection

Monthly Meeting

March 15, 2006

#### 1. Report by CCPA Re: Activities & Progress.

Obtained Technical Assistance from the ABA on Assessment Surveys and enlisted the assistance of Judicial, Casey Family Services, Connecticut Adoption and Foster Care Program, DCF's Bureau of Adolescent Services, Attorney General's Office, GTFJAC in order to create and distribute the surveys. Casey Family Services is currently donating time of Ben Kerman, Researcher, and Bob Malgady, Statistician, to help design the data base and reports for the surveys.

Surveys commenced distribution on March 12, 2007, including mailing to over 1000 parent clients.

Established Agreement with the CBA to provide Juvenile Law Track at Annual Meeting.

*Established* Family Matters Advisory Board, Quality Assurance Advisory Board and Magistrate Support Advisory Board.

Enlisted the assistance of the Hispanic and Asian American Bars, as well as minority contract attorneys, to form a Committee on Culturally Competent Legal Representation.

In collaboration with Voices for Children, enlisted and assisted Yale Law School interns to draft research paper on the efficacy of various models of representation. Paper recommending multi-disciplinary private agency model to be finalized this week.

Submitted Budget Options to OPM seeking an appropriation for an increased rate of compensation to child protection attorneys of \$60.00 per hour, among other requests for staff and training funds.

Through collaboration with the Child Advocacy Network submitted a legislative proposal for a pilot program to deliver legal services through a multi-disciplinary agency model, to improve the performance of contract attorneys, to pilot a loan forgiveness program for attorneys who commit to full-time child protection practice, and to enhance the capacity of the Commission on Child Protection to administer, evaluate and support this program.

The CCPA has testified at 7 public hearings on the Commission's budget needs, open courts and Raised Bill 907 which seeks to eliminate ex parte OTC's. With the assistance of Voices for Children, secured testimony of Yale Law Students and a former DCF youth for public hearings.

The CCPA has met individually with 14 legislators including Toni Harp, John McKinney, David Capiello, Toni Walker, Denise Merrill, Deborah Heinrich, Gail Hamm, Debra Lee Hovey, Joan Hartley, and Julia Wasserman of Appropriations.

Obtained approval of the Rules Committee of the Judicial Branch for a Rules change to recognize child welfare practice as a legal specialty and obtained commitment from the NACC to administer the ABA authorized certification program in Connecticut.

Collaborating with Attorney General's Office and Judicial Branch on creation and publishing of power point training tool for child protection attorneys.

Secured funding for state of the art web-based database system to efficiently administer program, help manage cases, prevent conflicts, streamline billing procedures, monitor case activities and Standards compliance, collect outcome data, and measure program performance.

Secured CIP grant funds for Scholarships for contract attorneys to attend 3 day NITA Child Advocacy Trial Skills Training Program.

Organized in collaboration with Juvenile Courts and DCF Lunch Time Presentations by contract attorneys on legal topics addressed at the 2006 NACC Child Welfare Law Conference.

Organized Training with Andrea Khoury of the ABA on Children in Court for all contract attorneys to be held on March 16, 2007.

Will participate in CBA CLE on State Contracts in April.

Will participate in Klingberg Forum for Foster Parents on recent statutory amendments in May.

With the assistance of John Kelley, Esq. of GTFJAC obtained voluntary services of William O'Doyle, Esq. experienced in trial skills instruction to provide training for juvenile attorneys at court houses or elsewhere if necessary.

Currently processing approximately 200 contract applications.

Instituted requirement that attorneys notify CoCP on their monthly bills dates of client visits.

2. Legislative Advocacy.
3. Discussion
4. Public Participation